



East Fishkill Historical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 245 Hopewell Junction, N.Y. 12533

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eastfishkillhistoricalsociety.org

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Fall/Winter 2022

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday December 4th 1pm-4pm EFHS Annual Christmas Open House and Holiday Food Drive: (With Santa and Randolph the Reign Goat). (Brinckerhoff House Historic Site)

EFHS Holiday Tea: **Saturday December 10th, two seatings. 1pm and 3pm** \$20 per person Contact Jan Bushey at (845) 242-5794 to make a reservation (Brinckerhoff House Historic Site)

All events subject to change.

How to stay in touch...

Please visit our website at eastfishkillhistoricalsociety.org. You can keep up with and register for events, sign up and pay for membership, watch videos of past events, and much more. You can also visit us on Facebook at Brinckerhoff House Historic Site/Home of East Fishkill Historical Society, and Instagram at [brinckerhoff_house_1750](https://www.instagram.com/brinckerhoff_house_1750).



Follow "Brinckerhoff House Historic Site/Home of East Fishkill Historical Society" on Facebook for the latest updates.

TIME TO RENEW FOR 2023!

Please JOIN or RENEW your membership to the Society for the 2023 membership year.

Single member \$20

Family membership \$25

Contributing member \$40-\$99

Patron \$100 & over

I would be willing to assist in the operation of the society. Please contact me to see how the society might best be able to use my time and talents.

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

I would prefer to have newsletters emailed

From the Farmhouse by Site Director, Rick Soedler

We hope this newsletter finds you well. Fall is beginning to seem like a distant memory, and the holidays are knocking on our doors. Outdoor projects are starting to wind down as we prepare for our upcoming holiday events. Our annual Rombout Colonial Days Weekend took place on October 1st and 2nd. This year's turnout was smaller than years past, however we always meet new people that are eager to learn from our resident and invited living historians. We have now completed the shed around our porta-john that we purchased last season and it fits right in with our other structures. We also completed the restoration of an old outhouse that came from the former Johnson Farm on Carpenter Road here in East Fishkill. The building had a new cedar shake roof installed, some new siding, and was repainted. Our annual members meeting was held on Saturday, November 5th and was attended by approximately 25 people. We did not hold board elections that day. They will take place at our Christmas Open House on Sunday December 4th. On Saturday, November 10th we hosted a paranormal investigation featuring The Haunted Collector, John Zaffis, presented by Full Moon Paranormal based out of Middletown, NY. The sold-out event was attended by 36 paranormal enthusiasts, 7 EFHS staff, and was a fundraiser for the East Fishkill Historical Society. Is our property haunted? Let's just say that there were a lot of interesting goings-on that evening. We plan to have Full Moon Paranormal back this coming spring. Please visit with us soon. We are looking forward to seeing you this upcoming holiday season!

Please visit our website eastfishkillhistoricalsociety.org for all of our upcoming events.

Active Members and Volunteers Needed: by Rick Soedler

The East Fishkill Historical Society has been blessed over the years to rely on a healthy volunteer base to continue our mission here in the Hudson Valley. These volunteers have been active board members who have held officer positions or seats on our board of directors. These volunteers have also helped out during events, school field trips, and/or have volunteered their time to help with projects around our site. A good portion of our long-time board members are getting older and have stepped down, and/or have begun to limit their time with us. **We are asking for your help to become more involved with your historical society.** We currently seek a new treasurer as our current treasure is stepping down after 10 years of dedicated volunteer service.



Our board could always use fresh faces and fresh ideas. We have a lovely little General Store that we need help to run. As we are getting more and more requests for field trips, we could use help presenting our programs to our local school children. We now have a small group of garden volunteers who could use additional assistance. We also could use help organizing and re-cataloging items in our collections, helping with events, and so on. We have one of the best historic sites in Dutchess County and we want to share the pride that we have with our members. **Please join us on Sunday, December 4th for our Annual Christmas Open House from 1-4pm** at the Brinckerhoff House to learn about our committees and volunteer opportunities.

Primus Storms and Cheryll Toney-Holley: by Rick Soedler



During the American Revolution, Primus Storms was an enslaved man who was once owned by local landowner Garrett Storm. Primus gained his freedom by working as a Steward to General George Washington while the General spent time in our area. Garrett Storm loaned Primus to the General and for his service he was emancipated. Primus's wife, Premelia, was owned by another local man named Platt Rogers. After his emancipation, Primus went to work for Platt Rogers, eventually gained freedom for his entire family, and followed Rogers to Basin Harbor, Vermont where the family and their descendents lived for many years. Cheryll Toney-Holley (on the left) is a descendent of Primus Storms, and is also Chief of the Nipmuc Nation based out of

Worcester, Massachusetts. Cheryll is also a historian and genealogist. She and her sister, Sherry, came to visit me back in October to share information regarding the people the Storm family enslaved. After an hour of information sharing, we took a ride to the John Storm House on Philips Road where their ancestor Primus Storms had lived as an enslaved man. Andy Frears, who now owns the Storm House with his wife Erin, was kind enough to drive up from Brooklyn that day to meet with us and give us a tour of the house which is in the process of being restored. It was a very emotional experience for Cheryll and her sister as they walked around the house and grounds. As Town Historian and Director of the East Fishkill Historical Society, this is the most satisfying part of the work that I do. When I am able to help people connect the dots and find the missing pieces of the puzzle, it is incredibly gratifying.